

COLLEGE BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL RETURNS TO DAYTONA BEACH IN 2026

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PRINCETON, NJ – The 18th College Basketball Invitational will take place March 21-25, 2026 at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach.

The 2026 CBI will be a single-elimination, fully-bracketed men's basketball postseason tournament featuring teams from across the country competing for a championship in Florida. The field will consist of teams not selected for the NCAA Tournament.

"Daytona Beach is a great destination" says Gazelle Group President Rick Giles." It has become the perfect home for the CBI, as teams experience spirited postseason competition and can also enjoy staying right on the beach."

Illinois State secured the 2025 College Basketball Invitational championship by defeating Cleveland State 79-68. Forward Caden Boser led the Redbirds with a season-high 20 points, shooting a perfect 7-for-7 from the field, including 4-for-4 from three-point range. Guard Johnny Kinziger and center Chase Walker (named the tournament MVP) each contributed 13 points.

Here's what past participating coaches have said about their CBI experiences:

"The CBI provided our young core players with valuable post season experience in 2022. I'm a firm believer that experience helped catapult our program to back-to-back NCAA tournament appearance," said Dusty May, the former coach of 2022 CBI Participant FAU.

"There's a perception that tournament is not where you want to be, you want to be in the NCAA Tournament, but it was a chance to keep gaining experience. The biggest thing is we were able to go from there and have a successful year," said Shaka Smart, the former coach of 2010 CBI Champions VCU

"Whether you're in the NCAA Tournament, the NIT, or the CBI, you still have the opportunity to play for a championship. We made the decision to treat the CBI as our NCAA Tournament that year. The experience definitely helped our program grow," said Porter Moser, the former coach of 2015 CBI Champions Loyola Chicago.

ESPN2, ESPNU, and Flo Hoops will broadcast the games. Flo Sports will broadcast the early rounds of the tournament while ESPNU will air the Semifinals and ESPN2 the Championship game.

Tickets for the 2026 College Basketball Invitational will go on sale at a later date.

Visit collegebasketballinvitational.com for the bracket and any additional information about the tournament.